

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /081 W

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R 111947Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1187

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: BERGERON ON ETUC

1. IN COURSE OF MEETING 10 JULY WITH UK, FRG AND
U.S. LABOR COUNSELORS ANDRE BERGERON, FO SECRETARY
GENERAL, REITERATED HIS DISILLUSION WITH ETUC AND HIS
PESSIMISM ABOUT ETUC EVER BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE
ORGANIZATION.

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2. HE DESCRIBED THE 4 JULY ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING SIMPLY AS "NO EVENT" BECAUSE, AS HE SAID, THE DISCUSSIONS WERE RAMBLING, THE DIVISIONS IRRECONCILABLE AND THE INABILITY TO COME UP WITH A PROGRAM ONLY TOO PATENT. HE DEPLORED THE LACK OF ANY COMMON DENOMINATOR AMONG THE ETUC MEMBERS AND THE FAILURE OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE 4 JULY MEETING TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THIS PROBLEM AND ASSUME THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE ETUC CHARTER.

3. WHILE EMPHASIZING THAT THE DIVISION BETWEEN MEMBERS AND NONMEMBERS OF THE COMMON MARKET WAS THE MOST APPARENT AND MORE SIGNIFICANT, BERGERON MAINTAINED THAT THE TENDENCY ON THE PART OF THE ETUC MEMBERS TO BEHAVE INDIVIDUALISTICALLY CREATED ADDITIONAL SHIFTING DIVISIONS WITHIN ETUC WHICH HAMPER ANY EFFORT TO PRODUCT A MEANINGFUL PROGRAM.

4. BERGERON ADDED THAT DGB PRESIDENT VETTER WAS JUST AS DISAPPOINTED ABOUT THE 4 JULY MEETING AS HE WAS AND GENERALLY SHARES BERGERON'S APPREHENSION ABOUT ETUC FUTURE.

5. ASKED ABOUT RASSCHAERT'S RESIGNATION BERGERON SAID THAT THE SUBJECT OF HIS REPLACEMENT WAS NOT DISCUSSED ON 4 JULY, ADDING THAT THIS WILL NOT BE THE ONLY PERSONNEL CHANGE THAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN ETUC. HE WAS UNABLE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC.

6. BERGERON VOLUNTEERED THAT ROGER LOUET, FORMERLY FO SECRETARY AND NOW DIRECTOR OF THE EC SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL, TOLD HIM RECENTLY THAT ETUC IS NOT HELD IN GREAT ESTEEM AMONG THE EC INSTITUTIONS AND AS A RESULT IS NOT LOOKED UPON AS A FACTOR TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN PLANNING EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES.

7. COMMENT: IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT BERGERON NEVER THOUGHT IT REALISTIC TO TRY TO EXPAND ETUC BEYOND THE COMMON MARKET MEMBER COUNTRIES. HE HAS FELT THAT PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES IN THE EC INSTITUTIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR THE PROVERBIAL "COMMON DENOMINATOR" AS TO GIVE ETUC MEMBERS COMMON OUTLOOK AND OBJECTIVES. EXPERIENCE SINCE THE FORMATION OF ETUC SEEMS TO JUSTIFY IN RETROSPECT BERGERON'S MISGIVINGS.

8. HOWEVER, HIS REPORT ON THE 4 JULY MEETING WAS NOT CAST IN ANY "I TOLD YOU SO" UNDERTONES BECAUSE BERGERON AND FO BEING CONVINCED EUROPEANISTS HAVE BEEN

PREPARED TO GIVE ETUC A CHANCE. THEY WILL CONTINUE
TO DO SO WHILE REMAINING LUCID IN ASSESSING ETUC
PROGRESS.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS18090
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750241-0117
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750764/aaaacfit.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <09 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BERGERON ON ETUC
TAGS: ELAB, FR, ETUC, (BERGERON, ANDRE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006